

[English]

Sick Industries with BIFR

2143. SHRI DEBI PROSAD PAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4477 on September 6, 1996 regarding Sick Industries with BIFR and state :

- (a) the details of the industrial companies registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as on July 31, 1996 from West Bengal;
- (b) the details of cases out of the above which have been disposed of so far;
- (c) whether any case of failure to comply with the provisions of the sanctioned scheme by the parties concerned has come to the notice of BIFR;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 176 cases were registered with it from West Bengal upto 31.07.1996, out of which 130 cases have been disposed of.

(c) to (e). BIFR has reported that excepting following four cases, there has been general compliance of the provisions of the rehabilitation scheme by the concerned parties :

- (i) M/s. Kamarhatti Company Ltd.
- (ii) M/s. Shree Gouri Shankar Jute Mills.
- (iii) M/s. Tyre Corporation of India
- (iv) M/s. A.V.J. Wires Ltd.

In the above mentioned cases, the BIFR has inter alia, issued suitable directions to the concerned parties such as for settlement of issues, consideration of modified scheme, grant of further time for implementation of scheme and review of cases.

Salaries of NTC Workers

2144. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that salaries and other dues of payments like Provident Fund gratuity etc. are not being paid to the workers/employees of NTC regularly;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether salaries of the workers/employees of NTC have not been revised since long time; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make regular payments of salaries and other dues to the workers/employees of NTC and revise their pay scales?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (b). Government have been meeting the shortfall faced by NTC in payment of Wages, salaries and bonus to their Workers/employees. However, there are occasional delays in disbursal of wages and salaries due to budgetary constraints. Since the availability of funds is not sufficient for payment of statutory dues, NTC has defaulted in payment of statutory dues, such as PF, ESI and gratuity. A total of Rs. 121.56 crores is outstanding towards payment of statutory dues.

(c) and (d). The salaries of workers/employees of NTC have been revised from time to time as per region-cum-industry formula, CDA scales and IDA scales as per the rules/orders. Government have also decided to meet the wage bill of NTC, pending approval of the rehabilitation package by BIFR.

Trade with Russia

2145. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's bilateral trade with Russia improved significantly in 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target set for exports to Russia during 1996-97; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export to Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. India's bilateral trade with Russia during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 was as under :

(Value in Rs. Cr.)

	Export	Import	Total	Growth %
1994-95	2534	1584	4118	
1995-96	3503	2853	6356	54

(c) No target has been set for exports to Russia during 1996-97. It is expected that the export level of Rs. 3503 crores to Russia achieved during 1995-96 would be more or less maintained during 1996-97 also.

(d) Both the Governments are interacting on regular basis towards enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Following the signing of the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement in 1992 and creation of the bilateral inter Governmental Commission on Trade,

Economic, Science, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, a series of agreements between the two countries have been signed and number of mechanisms have been set up to promote trade and economic cooperation. Steps have also been taken to enlarge Indo-Russian trade on consignment export basis through the ware-houses and also ensuring greater presence of Indian banks in Russia. Both sides are also making efforts to promote bilateral trade through participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, exchange of trade information, etc.

Production of Large Cardamoms

2146. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Spices Board and the Department of Biotechnology are going ahead with their tissue culture programme for large cardamom;

(b) if so, the details of financial outlay thereof separately;

(c) whether these Boards proposes to go ahead to multiply field tests, high yielding material and identifying genetically superior quality of large cardamom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The project titled 'Large Cardamom Tissue Culture - Product Plan' is being implemented at a total cost of Rs. 58.05 lakhs to be shared between Department of Bio-technology and Spices Board. The project envisages large scale evaluation of the performance of Large Cardamom Tissue Culture vis-a-vis., its seedling population in planters field in four districts of Sikkim and Distt: Darjeeling, West Bengal.

(c) and (d). The first 'Programme Monitoring and Management Committee' (PMMC) meeting on tissue culture large cardamom product plan has identified eight clones namely SBLC-5, SBLC-7, SBLC-9, SBLC-10, SBLC-33, SBLC-37, SBLC-42 and SBLC-43 for invitro multiplication. The selection of the clones are based on a field level survey. The survey is intended to identify elite clones. The survey covered North, South, West and East Sikkim and Darjeeling District of West Bengal. The bench mark set up for selection of the elite clones is yield of 1000 kgs. per hectare, against the average national productivity of 225 kgs. per hectare (1995-96). The survey was undertaken by Indian Cardamom Research Institute of the Spices Board, Gangtok.

Captive Coal Mining Blocks

2147. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a number of proposals for allotment of captive Coal mining

blocks from companies, engaged in power generating and manufacture of Steel and Iron;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals pending for clearance with CIL alongwith the reasons for delay in giving clearance to those proposals; and

(c) the steps taken to take decision on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (c). The Screening Committee, constituted in the Ministry of Coal have considered a number of proposals for identification of captive coal blocks for allotment to power generating companies and companies engaged in the manufacture of Iron Steel.

Based on the decision of Screening Committee 15 power generating companies and 5 Iron and steel companies have been offered captive coal blocks.

Apart from this, proposals have been received from 10 power generating companies, 2 Iron and steel companies and 5 cement companies, which are under examination in consultation with CIL and concerned Ministries of the Government.

Financial Position of STC

2148. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) had fudged its 1995-96 accounts to convert a loss of Rs. 51.36 crore into a profit of Rs. 32.67 crore, as reported in 'The Financial Express', New Delhi dated October 1, 1996:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor-General has also made several scathing remarks on the accounting practice of STC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). State Trading Corp. of India has intimated that it finalised its accounts for the financial year 1995-96 on the basis of its well established accounting policies. The accounts were audited by the statutory auditors appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and the same were considered and approved by the Board of Directors of STC. These audited accounts of STC reflected a profit of Rs. 32.67 crores. However, C & AG subsequently in its comments observed that the provision should be made for the following amounts :

(i) Rs. 20.02 crores to be realised on account of canalised import of newsprint in the period prior and upto 1991-92.